

Campaign Statements – Filing Requirements

Bill Proposal:

Amend Government Code section 84215 to do the following: 1) eliminate the requirement to file copies of campaign statements with a committee's county of domicile and 2) reduce the requirement to file two copies of reports with local filing officers to one copy.

Problem and Proposed Solution:

1) Candidates and committees (except those filing exclusively in a single city) must file two copies of each campaign statement with the candidate or committee's "county of domicile" (the address where the committee is located). More and more, committees are hiring professional treasurers and using the treasurer's business address as the address of the committee. In many cases, the treasurer is located in a county where the committee raises no funds and makes no contributions or expenditures. Still, the committee must file copies of its reports with its county of domicile.

This proposal would eliminate the requirement for committees to file copies of campaign statements with their county of domicile. (However, it would not change the requirement for a candidate to file a copy of his/her campaign reports in the county where the candidate is "domiciled." For example, a candidate running for assembly would still be required to file copies of his/her campaign reports in the county in which he/she lives.)

2) In addition to filing an original and one copy of campaign statements with their "original" filing officer, section 84215 requires candidates and committees to file two copies of their campaign statements with other county filing officers. Filing officers receiving only copies of campaign statements rarely need more than one copy. In addition, there has been some confusion about the retention period for the second copy.

This proposal would reduce the two-copy requirement to one copy.

Bill Language:

§ 84215. Campaign Reports and Statements; Where to File.

All candidates, and elected officers and their controlled committees, ~~committees, and proponents of state ballot measures or the qualification of state ballot measures,~~ except as provided in subdivision (e), shall file ~~two copies~~ one copy of the campaign statements required by Section 84200 with the clerk of the county in which ~~they are~~ the candidate or elected officer is domiciled as defined in Elections Code Section 349(b). ~~A committee is domiciled at the address listed on its campaign statement unless it is domiciled outside California in which case its domicile shall be deemed to be Los Angeles County for the purpose of this section.~~ In addition, campaign statements shall be filed at the following places:

(a) Statewide elected officers and candidates for these offices other than the Board of Equalization, supreme court justices, their controlled committees, committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose these candidates, elected officers, supreme court justices, or statewide measures, or the qualification of state ballot measures, and all state general purpose committees and filers not specified in subdivisions (b) to (e), inclusive:

(1) The original and one copy with the Secretary of State.

(2) ~~Two copies~~ One copy with the Registrar-Recorder of Los Angeles County.

(3) ~~Two copies~~ One copy with the Registrar of Voters of the City and County of San Francisco.

(b) Members of the Legislature or Board of Equalization, court of appeal justices, superior court judges, candidates for those offices, their controlled committees, and committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose these candidates or officeholders:

(1) The original and one copy with the Secretary of State.

(2) ~~Two copies~~ One copy with the clerk of the county with the largest number of registered voters in the districts affected.

(c) Elected officers in jurisdictions other than legislative districts, Board of Equalization districts, or appellate court districts that contain parts of two or more counties, candidates for these offices, their controlled committees, and committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose candidates or local measures to be voted upon in one of these jurisdictions shall file the original and one copy with the clerk of the county with the largest number of registered voters in the jurisdiction.

(d) County elected officers, municipal court judges, candidates for these offices, their controlled committees, committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose candidates or local measures to be voted upon in any number of jurisdictions within one county, other than those specified in subdivision (e), and county general purpose committees shall file the original and one copy with the clerk of the county.

(e) City elected officers, candidates for city office, their controlled committees, committees formed or existing primarily to support or oppose candidates or local measures to be voted upon in one city, and city general purpose committees shall file the original and one copy with the clerk of the city. These elected officers, candidates, and committees need not file with the clerk of the county in which they are domiciled.

(f) Notwithstanding the above, a committee, candidate, or elected officer is not required to file more than the original and one copy, or ~~two copies~~ one copy, of a campaign statement with any one county or city clerk or with the Secretary of State.

(g) If a committee is required to file campaign statements required by Section 84200 or 84200.5 in places designated in subdivisions (d) and (e), it shall continue to file these statements in those places, in addition to any other places required by this title, until the end of the calendar year.